Bountiful/Woods Cross 5th South PCE Plume Superfund Site OU2 Water Treatment Plant Completed and Operational

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Project Update

After four years of remedial design and action and nearly $4 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality finished the construction of the water treatment system and groundwater extraction wells at the Bountiful/Woods Cross PCE Plume Superfund Site.

The water treatment system, extraction wells, and distribution pipeline is for the long-term cleanup of tetrachloroethene (commonly called PCE) in the groundwater. Remediating groundwater contamination is very difficult and time-intensive. Treatment will continue for approximately 30–50 years.

Maximum capacity for treating water at this plant is 200,000 gallons of water per day or 80–140 gallons of water per minute. The purpose of the selected remedy is to address the PCE groundwater plume, and to prevent exposure via inhalation of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) found in the contaminated groundwater.

While there is not an immediate health risk, the contaminated plume presents the potential for vapor intrusion into structures built over the plume. At the site, potential exposure could come from drinking contaminated groundwater or by inhaling vapors as a result of individual indoor water uses or vapors migrating upward through the soil and groundwater into basements and other cracks in foundations.

Individuals may prevent exposure by avoiding direct ingestion of untreated groundwater until it is restored to its beneficial use. Instead, residents should use municipal drinking water for domestic purposes.

EPA has identified all private wells in the area of concern. The only known use for groundwater use in the area is from domestic well owners for irrigation and stock watering purposes. The remedy selected to treat this plume included construction of a groundwater extraction and treatment system. Hydrology studies determined the placement of the water treatment system as the contamination is mostly concentrated directly below properties off of 1100 West. Therefore the extraction wells were placed directly above that concentrated area of contamination of the plume.

The goal of the extraction and treatment system is to reduce the plume by extracting and treating the contaminated groundwater. This groundwater is extracted from the middle aquifer zone about 80 to 160 feet below ground surface. The water is treated and released into the A-l Drainage Canal, where the Utah Department of Transportation will use it in a wetlands mitigation project for the Legacy Highway.

Because contaminants of concern will remain in groundwater until the remedy is completed, institutional controls (ICs) will be required to protect public health and the environment. ICs are administrative or legal controls that help minimize the potential for human exposure to contamination or protect the longevity of the remedy. The ICs will remain in place until the groundwater quality improves to allow for unrestricted use.

At the OU2 source, ICs will include the use of an environmental covenant to minimize the potential for human exposure to vapors from residual sub-surface contamination. ICs for the groundwater plume for OU2 will be informational. A notification system will be put in place to inform the water user of the potential risk from exposure to contaminated groundwater. Letters will be mailed out as needed, fact sheets will be produced regularly to inform citizens, local officials, private well owners and others about the remedy and progress being made to clean up the water. As a matter of policy the site will be reviewed every five years for as long as contaminants of concern remain at the site. The five-year review evaluates the effectiveness of the remedy to protect human health and the environment.

To Report an Emergency, Please Contact:

South Davis Sewer District
801-295-3469

Bountiful/Woods Cross 5th South Superfund Site Groundwater Treatment Facility

During construction

After construction